

7 HEALTHY THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR TAX REFUND

Congratulations! You've worked hard this year and your tax refund reflects it. We all know how easy it is to have "found" money slip through our fingers. But by thinking about how you'd like to divide up your tax refund, you can reward yourself now and plan for your future. Here are some ways to use your refund. Check which ones you will use and the amount you'll allocate.

- REWARD YOURSELF** You've worked hard and you deserve to reward yourself, so don't be afraid to put some of your refund aside for yourself. But let your gift reflect your current financial situation. Amount \$ _____
- PAY DOWN YOUR HIGH APR LOANS** Interest payments take a chunk out of day-to-day living expenses. You'll reap the rewards of paying off high APR debt well into the future. Amount \$ _____
- PAY YOURSELF FIRST** Make sure to reward your future too: allot some of your refund to your financial goals—like a new home, or a starting your own business—by opening up a savings account or by making an extra big deposit. Amount \$ _____
- BUY A SAVINGS BOND** It can be purchased directly from the refund for yourself or family members. Interest Income may be tax-free if used for certain higher education expenses. Amount \$ _____
- FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD INVESTMENTS** Think about all the unusual expenses that could come up in the next few months: higher heating bills; a new starter for you car; a child's graduation. Reserving some of your tax refund will help you get through emergencies. Amount \$ _____
- MAKE A DONATION** Sending a check to a charity you care about is a great way to share your tax refund. And don't forget to get a receipt to deduct it from next year's taxes. Amount \$ _____
- CLEAN HOUSE** Getting a tax refund is a great opportunity to clean up your financial house: get your paychecks directly deposited; start monthly savings; or open a retirement account like an IRA. Amount to IRA \$ _____

UNCLE SAM DOESN'T PAY INTEREST If your tax refund was large because you had a lot taken out of your paycheck, think about lowering your withholding so that you can save that money throughout the year (tell your employer you want to revise your W-4). Likewise, EITC filers should explore advance EITC to get some of their tax credit in every paycheck. **update W4 with your job**

